

PSATT Grant Award 2008-2010

Bridging The Gap (BTG)

Lead District:	Poplar Public Schools
Partner Districts:	Frazer Public Schools, Brockton Public Schools, Wolf Point Public Schools
Regional Service Center Partner:	Southern Montana Alliance for Resources and Training (SMART) and Region One Comprehensive System Personnel Development (CSPD) program
Project Director:	Peg Fisher
Technology Mentor:	Libby Solberg
Internal Evaluator:	Not yet named
External Evaluator:	Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory (NWREL) represented by: Gary Graves

Abstract: Bridging The Gap utilizes a proven professional development framework to impact four high need schools in remote northeastern Montana. BTG annually provides 160 hours of face-to-face training for Integration Coaches serving as district technology leaders. BTG provides 80 hours of face-to-face instruction to year-one team members with tech skills and integration awareness. BTG provides 36 hours of face-to-face training year-two team members for integration support, differentiated instruction training, review of student work and standards implementation. BTG through PBS/ISTE provides 25 online hours of Coach training to Integration Coaches and 36 hours of online Integration instruction for the year-two participants.

The focus of this model is not merely the use of software and hardware, it is about pedagogy and integration of technology for teacher and student use to meet standards as well as thoughtful review of student work and observation of participating classrooms. Within this professional learning culture participant teachers create lessons aligned to standards that differentiate learning using technology. The reporting and assessment tools included provide documentation for ongoing assessment of both teaching practices and learner outcomes.

The incorporation of any emerging tool or technology into the classroom is only as successful as the teaching practice in which it is rooted. Acknowledging that many of our teachers are uncomfortable with basic computing, emerging technologies and lack confidence using technology in their classrooms, BTG provides a two-year participation cycle. The first year utilizes a demonstrated skill-building professional development curriculum designed to move teachers from basic technology skills to subject-specific integration. During the second year continuing teachers are mentored to differentiate learning, look at student work, align lessons with montana content standards and then implement and reflect on the lessons created. Year-two teachers also work online to complete 30 hours of PBS/ISTE Integration Capstone courses resulting in a PBS/ISTE Integration Certificate. This proven past for successful implementation generates technology leaders within each district while creating dynamic, independent classroom teachers and improves student academic achievement.

Regional Service Center Partner Role(s): SMART and SCPD Region I will assist the grant by providing curriculum specific regional experts to assist project teachers with the effective integration of technology across the curriculum.

